

U.S. Patent No. 6,690,724 to KADONO, which issued on February 10, 2004; and

- (2) Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. HEI 9-23436, together with an English language Abstract of the same.

The relevance of these documents, as ascertained with respect to the international claims by the International Examiner, is set forth in the International Search Report.

Applicants further submit the following documents:

- (3) Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. HEI 4-95471, together with an English language Abstract of the same. Applicants note that this document is cited on page 3 of the specification of the above-captioned application;
- (4) U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0105591 to HONDA et al., which was published on June 3, 2004; and
- (5) U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/02285351 to HONDA et al., which was published on November 18, 2004.

Further to 37 C.F.R. §1.98 (a)(2)(ii), copies of the U.S. patent and patent application publications are not enclosed herewith. However, if any copy is needed, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned.

Applicants also note that MPEG-4 FGS (ISO/IEC 14496-2, Amendment 2) is cited on page 3 of the specification. Applicants are not submitting a copy of this standard, and do not believe it is necessary because it is a publicly available standard. However, if a copy is needed, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned.

Further, since the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is assumed to have received the International Search Report and the documents cited therein from the International Bureau, and the Examiner is assumed to have considered these documents in accordance with MPEP 609.03 and 1893.03(g), copies of these documents, i.e., the above-noted documents (1) and (2), are not enclosed herewith. However, if any copy is needed, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned.

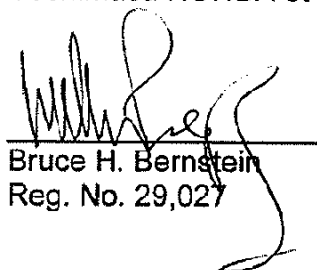
Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the above material and cite the same. A copy of the above-noted document (3), including the noted English language Abstract, is attached hereto, and all of the documents are listed on an attached PTO-1449 Form. The Examiner is requested to initial the appropriate spaces on the attached Form and to return a copy of the completed Form to Applicants with the next official communication in the present application.

Applicants note that an Office Action on the merits has not issued in the present application, and thus, no fee is believed necessary to ensure consideration of the submitted material.

Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

August 30, 2006
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